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Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY BRASILIA IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 063386

NODIS

FOLLOWING REPEAT RIO DE JANEIRO 1121, SENT SECSTATE 10 MARCH:

QUOTE S E C R E T RIO DE JANEIRO 1121

NODIS

BRASILIA FOR CHARGE

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS : OVIP (CARTER, JIMMY)
SUBJECT : THE PRESIDENT'S TRIP - ACCOMMODATIONS FOR THE PRESIDENT IN RIO

REFERENCE : STATE 58056

1. I DO NOT KNOW OF ANY PRIVATE HOUSES IN RIO THAT SATISFY ALL THE CRITERIA STATED IN REFTEL AND HAVE NOT BEEN ABLE TO EXPLORE THE SUBJECT THOROUGHLY BECAUSE OF THE LIMITED TIME AVAILABLE AND THE LACK OF AUTHORITY TO DISCUSS THE PROBLEM WITH BRAZILIAN OFFICIALS OR OTHERS WHO MIGHT BE ABLE TO OFFER

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SUGGESTIONS. AT THIS TIME I CAN THINK OF ONLY TWO SPECIFIC POSSIBILITIES FOR RESIDENCES OF SUITABLE SIZE AND STYLE THAT I CAN HAVE SOME CONFIDENCE MIGHT BE AVAILABLE FOR THIS PURPOSE, THOUGH THE LOCATION OF NEITHER IS IDEAL.

2. ONE POSSIBILITY IS RESIDENCE BELONGING TO AN AMERICAN, JOHN GARDNER WILLIAMS, A PLACE SAID TO BE EXTREMELY ELEGANT

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AND PALATIAL WHICH IS FROM THE FAMILY ESTATE OF HIS WIFE, BRAZILIAN HEIRESS MARIA THEREZA FONTES. THIS HOUSE WAS USED, I AM TOLD, BY BOTH PRESIDENTS EISENHOWER AND ROOSEVELT AND IT HAS ALSO HOUSED A NUMBER OF OTHER FOREIGN DIGNITARIES INCLUDING, MOST RECENTLY, THE KING OF SWEDEN. I HAVE NOT SEEN THIS HOUSE BUT IT IS SAID TO BE MAGNIFICENTLY FURNISHED AND TO POSSESS, AMONG OTHER THINGS, A VERY FINE ART COLLECTION. IT HAS A SWIMMING POOL BUT NOT A TENNIS COURT. IT IS SITUATED IN A SCENIC LOCATION, A SUBURB OF RIO KNOWN AS GAVEA AND IS SOME TEN TO FIFTEEN MINUTES FROM THE INTERCONTINENTAL HOTEL. THE WILLIAMS ARE TRAVELLING ABROAD AT THIS TIME BUT I UNDER-STAND THEY HAVE A SON IN RIO WHO CAN DISCUSS THE QUESTION WITH RESPONSIBILITY.

3. THE SECOND PROSPECT IS ANOTHER HOUSE THAT I HAVE NOT SEEN, BELONGING TO CITY GOVERNMENT AND USED, I BELIEVE, AS A GUEST HOUSE FOR OFFICIAL GUESTS OF THE MUNICIPALITY. LOCATED IN THE SAME GENERAL AREA AS THE WILLIAMS HOUSE, IT IS SAID TO BE SIMILARLY GRAND AND ELEGANT. I UNDERSTAND THAT IT HAS BOTH A SWIMMING POOL AND A TENNIS COURT.

4. I BELIEVE EITHER OF THESE TWO WOULD BE SUITABLE FROM THE POLITICAL AND OTHER POINTS OF VIEW. THE WILLIAMS PROPERTY HAS THE ADVANTAGE AS HAVING BEEN USED A CHIEF OF STATE LODGING ON PREVIOUS OCCASIONS AND THEREFORE WE COULD ASSUME THAT IT IS IN EVERY WAY APPROPRIATE AND THAT SECURITY AND OTHER FACTORS

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HAVE BEEN THOROUGHLY CHECKED OUT IN THE PAST. SIMILARLY, THE MAYOR'S HOUSE WOULD APPEAR TO BE POLITICALLY ACCEPTABLE. OF COURSE, USE OF THAT HOUSE WOULD PROBABLY ENTAIL A COURTESY OBLIGATION FOR THE PRESIDENT TO RECEIVE THE MAYOR.

4. I INTEND TO TRY OVER THE WEEKEND TO DRIVE BY BOTH OF THESE PROPERTIES TO GET A FIRST-HAND IMPRESSION OF AT LEAST THE EXTERNAL FEATURES. I WILL ALSO CONTINUE TO EXPLORE THIS MATTER AND REPORT PROMPTLY ANY OTHER POSSIBILITIES THAT COME TO MIND. DEXTER UNQUOTE. VANCE

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